

REQUIRES MONITORING OR
STAFF ACTION _____

COMMISSION DIRECTIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	DATE	<u>December 1, 2005</u>
MOTOR CARRIER MATTERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOCKET NO.	<u>2005-370-G</u>
UTILITIES MATTERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

SUBJECT:

DOCKET NO. 2005-370-G - Joint Petition of South Carolina Electric and Gas Company and the Office of Regulatory Staff for an Order Authorizing South Carolina Electric and Gas Company (SCE&G) to Use Synfuel Tax Credits to Provide Bill Assistance to Qualifying SCE&G Low-Income Residential Natural Gas Customers Through a Program Administered By the Office of the Governor
– Discuss with the Commission the Appointment of a Hearing Officer in this Matter.

COMMISSION ACTION:

The joint motion of SCE&G and ORS states that they share this Commission's concern for residential customers, and recognize the need to mitigate the impact of recent gas price increases on those customers least able to afford the increase. I applaud them for taking up this Commission's challenge to evaluate ways to help customers in relation to the unusually high gas prices we're all experiencing. Therefore, I am encouraged by the proposal they have brought to the Commission to use Synfuel Tax Credits to assist certain low-income residential gas customers with their bills for this winter season, and I believe that the Commission should make every effort to consider this matter expeditiously. However, in Commission Order # 2005-02, Docket # 2004-178-E, this Commission approved SCE&G's request that, as synthetic fuel tax credits are generated in each quarter, the synthetic fuel tax credits will be matched to depreciation against the Lake Murray Dam remediation project account on a quarterly basis, until the net balance of that account reaches zero -- assuming sufficient credits are available. Since the current motion requests a change in that allocation, I believe that all parties to Docket # 2004-178-E need to be provided notice of this proposed change and given opportunity to be heard, on an expedited basis, regarding their support or opposition to this change.

I move that the Commission take this matter up at a Special Meeting next Thursday, December 8, 2005 and, at that time, hear from any parties who may wish to be heard. At that meeting, the Commission and the public could also learn more about this initiative from SCE&G either through testimony or their counsel. As such, I move to direct the staff to send notice to the parties in Docket # 2004-178-E as soon as possible but no later than close of business Monday, December 5, 2005. Depending on what we hear at next Thursday's Special Meeting, we may be able to rule at the conclusion of that meeting. With that in mind, I move that we appoint Joseph Melchers as Hearing Officer to coordinate with the parties so as to expedite consideration of this important matter.

PRESIDING	<u>Mitchell</u>					
	MOTION	YES	NO	OTHER	APPROVED	<input type="checkbox"/>
					APPROVED STC 30 DAYS	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLYBURN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		ACCEPTED FOR FILING	<input type="checkbox"/>
FLEMING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		DENIED	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAMILTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		AMENDED	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOWARD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		TRANSFERRED	<input type="checkbox"/>
MITCHELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		SUSPENDED	<input type="checkbox"/>
MOSELEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		CANCELED	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRIGHT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent	SET FOR HEARING	<input type="checkbox"/>
					ADVISED	<input type="checkbox"/>
Session: Regular					CARRIED OVER	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time of Session	<u>2:30 PM</u>				RECORDED BY	<u>JBS</u>

Commissioner Wright was on Sick Leave